

**Simcoe Muskoka Catholic
District School Board**

Our Catholic Trustees
Stewards of Faith



**SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Faith-filled Governance

The trustees of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board are very dedicated to living our vision:

We are a faith-filled Catholic learning community dedicated to excellence.

This vision, established by the Board, articulates our commitment to students, staff, parents and the larger community.



With 53 schools, more than 21,000 students and over 3,000 employees, we are a faith community bound together by our beliefs. Our schools are located in some of the most beautiful natural settings in the province. Our board encompasses a large and dynamic region – an area of 8,800 kilometres – serving small towns, rural areas and urban centres.

From Bradford West Gwillimbury to Huntsville and from Collingwood to Brechin, we are a community focused on enhancing the educational and spiritual development of students. We offer excellent programs, resources and supports so that students are provided with every opportunity to reach their future goals and aspirations – and it is our elected Catholic trustees who set the direction for the Board.

FAITH

Compassion

Forgiveness

Teamwork

Advocate

Stewards

Governance

Truth

Integrity

Vision

Guardians of the Gift

Our Board is privileged to have eight elected trustees who serve Catholic education in our school communities. Our trustees are more than elected officials because their role as Catholic trustees also includes a spiritual dimension.

They have responsibilities that they share with the public and French school board trustees through the legislative authority set out in the Ministry of Education's *Education Act*. But they have the additional, distinct duty of ensuring that the broader mission of the Catholic Church is realized. They are called to be stewards of faith for the students in our schools. They provide leadership and governance for the Board within the context of our faith and Gospel values.

Catholic trustees have a vision of life that is centred in the person of Jesus. In their role, they promote excellence in academic programs steeped in the message of the Gospel and in the rich history of Catholic education in this province. They also publicly promote and defend the religious dimensions of our Catholic schools.

In addition to our elected officials, there are student trustees, who are elected by their peers, to represent the voice of students in the Board.



Governance
FAMILY
Gift
COOPERATION
Love
Justice
Trustworthy
POLICY
Values
Guardians
Vision

Our trustees hold regular board and other committee meetings. For full details on the meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, visit our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca

Achieving the Mission and Values

Along with our senior leadership team, the trustees continue to set direction for the Board by developing governing by-laws and policies, approving an annual balanced budget, establishing system priorities through strategic planning and making decisions that ensure our students receive the highest quality, faith-filled learning.



Our trustees work tirelessly to fulfill our mission and vision and to promote the inclusion of a recognizable Catholic dimension in policies, practices, programs and decision-making.

Embracing Responsibilities

Our trustees are also responsible for ensuring the administrative structures, operational procedures and employment practices of the Board reflect our guiding faith principles.

Love

Objective

Support

Mission

Communication

Vision

FAITH

Integrity

Responsible

Decision-making

Ensuring Academic Excellence

The trustees are responsible for appointing the Director of Education and work together with the Director to ensure our mission, vision and values/virtues are effectively achieved in the classroom. They make sure that faith formation and Catholicity are infused into the curriculum in all subject areas, across all grades. Trustees guarantee the delivery of comprehensive Religion and Family Life programs throughout our elementary and secondary schools.

Nurturing our students in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church is an additional responsibility they uphold. As part of their mandate, our trustees expect students to receive instruction that is founded on the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*, a document that guides the education and faith development of students in Ontario Catholic schools.

Advocates of Catholic Education

Catholic education has a tradition of success and great achievement in the province's history. In our own jurisdiction, we are proud of the legacy of Catholic education seen in many schools whose origins



Truth

Teamwork

Objective

Forgiveness

Service

Governance

GOALS

Advocate

Excellence

Responsibility

date back to the early 1800s. St. Mary's Catholic School in Barrie opened in 1855, while St. James Catholic School in Colgan was founded in 1857. Brechin is proud of Foley Catholic School that opened its doors to students in 1884. Since that time, we have expanded to offer faith-filled learning in many of the communities we serve.

The commitment to public funding of Catholic education continues, but not without some debate. Despite all the rhetoric, Catholic schools are a vital and integral part of Ontario society. Our schools continue to achieve high levels of academic excellence and we graduate students who become responsible, contributing citizens.



The rights of Catholic education are established in the *Constitution of Canada*, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and are recognized in provincial legislation as well as in various courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Our trustees not only understand the true value that Catholic education provides to our students, our communities and our society, but they also continue to advocate and protect Catholic learning. They are well-versed in the constitutional rights that govern and direct our schools and take a leadership role in promoting a public understanding of the importance that Catholic education has played in this province since the formal system began in 1841.

Governance

Love

FAITH

Advocate

Justice

Responsible

Trustworthy

Support

COOPERATION

Compassion

Living Faith Through Service

A key aspect of our faith-filled learning is the emphasis our schools place on social justice, Catholic social teachings and service to those less fortunate. This is something our trustees value, support and promote. Each of our school communities undertakes numerous charitable initiatives throughout the year. Whether it is caring for God's creation through environmental initiatives or fundraising to help families and countries in need, our students inspire all of us with their devotion to service. Our trustees also exemplify this devotion to service. They value academic achievement, but recognize that attitudes, values and actions are equally important.

Community Focused

Our trustees work in community – their goals for Catholic learning are a responsibility they share with the many partners in their educational communities. Parents, parish priests, staff, students and other community partners are important to the continued success and advancement of Catholic education.



Objective Support Service
Communication FAMILY
FAITH Integrity Responsible
Collaboration Teamwork

Building Relationships

Building strong relationships with all levels of government, as well as with community agencies involved in Catholic education are also key responsibilities of our trustees. They liaise with other trustees, Catholic and public, especially with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association. These relationships give trustees the opportunity to share the joy of an education that addresses the spiritual, moral, academic, social and physical needs of young people.

Conclusion

The history of Catholic schools in Simcoe County and the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound is rich with stories of struggles, but mostly with great successes. It is a legacy that past, current and future trustees treasure. Catholic education and its distinct nature is something we will continue to cherish and to celebrate.



Community Truth Teamwork
Trustworthy Compassion
Forgiveness Advocate
FAITH Vision Service

Our Trustees



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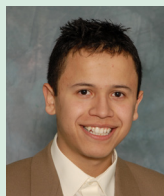
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Up-to-date information on our board, our schools, your trustee, board meetings, policies and procedures is available on our website www.smcdsb.on.ca. (Note: for the Barrie area - Wards 1,2,3,4 and 5 are predominately in north Barrie and Wards 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are predominately in south Barrie.)



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May 2011